

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 002900/D2/EPIC/EPIC/JW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Suketu A. Parikh) Group Art Unit:
Serial No.: New Divisional Application) Examiner:
Filed:) **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**
For: Techniques For Triple And) PATENT COUNSEL
Quadruple Damascene) APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.
Fabrication) Legal Affairs Department
P.O. Box 450 A
Santa Clara, CA 95052

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This preliminary amendment is submitted for the above-identified new Divisional Patent Application, enclosed herewith, which is a division of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/165,233, filed 10/01/98. This preliminary amendment is submitted prior to a First Office Action of the division.

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please withdraw claims 1-32 and 34.

Please amend the following claim as follows:

33. (once amended) A device comprising:

- a) a substrate;
- b) a first dielectric layer positioned on the substrate;
- c) a second dielectric layer positioned on the first dielectric layer, wherein the first and second dielectric layers have dissimilar etching characteristics.

093449-04301
F093449-04301